minimum numerical amount of change occurs, said request specifying said minimum numerical amount of said change; and

in response to the receiving step, said subsystem monitoring status of said subsystem, and if said minimum numerical amount of said change subsequently occurs in said status, said subsystem reporting said change to said host system, but not reporting a change to said host system when no change occurs or less than said minimum numerical amount of change occurs.

55.   A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein before said minimum numerical amount of said change occurs, said subsystem does not report said status of said subsystem to said host system.

56.   A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said status of said subsystem includes status of a component coupled to said subsystem.

57.   A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said status of said subsystem comprises status of a device, component or board slot within said subsystem.

58.   A method as set forth in claim 54 further comprising the steps of:

before the receiving step, establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem;

after the receiving step but before the reporting step, terminating said communication link; and

after the terminating step but before said reporting step, establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem for said reporting.

59.   A method as set forth in claim 58 wherein each of said communication links comprises SCSI commands and protocol.

60.   A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure, and said status of said subsystem pertains to said SAF-TE enclosure.

61.   A method as set forth in claim 54 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure and programming to support periodic SAF-TE polls made by said host system for status of said subsystem, and further comprising the step of said subsystem receiving periodic SAF-TE polls made by said host system, and said subsystem responding to said periodic SAF-TE polls by promptly reporting status of said subsystem for each of said polls, whether or not said status has changed.

62.   A computer system comprising a host system and a subsystem coupled to said host system, said computer system comprising:

        first programming in said host system to generate and send a request to said subsystem to monitor a status of said subsystem and report to said host system a change in said status when a minimum numerical amount of change occurs, but not report a change to said host system when no change occurs or less than said minimum numerical amount of change occurs, said request specifying said numerical minimum amount of said change;

        second programming in said subsystem to respond to said request by monitoring status of said subsystem, and if said minimum numerical amount of said change subsequently occurs, reporting said change to said host system, but not reporting a change to said host system when no change occurs or less than said minimum numerical amount of change occurs.

63.   A system as set forth in claim 62 wherein before said minimum numerical amount of said change occurs, said subsystem does not report said status of said subsystem to said host system.

64.   A system as set forth in claim 62 wherein said status of said subsystem includes status of a component coupled to said subsystem.

65.   A system as set forth in claim 62 wherein said status of said subsystem comprises status of a device, component or board slot within said subsystem.

66.   A system as set forth in claim 62 further comprising:

means for establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem before said first programming sends said request to said subsystem;

means for terminating said communication link after said first programming sends said request but before said subsystem responds to said request; and

means for establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem after said terminating of said communication link but before said subsystem responds to said request, to enable said subsystem to report said status.

67.   A system as set forth in claim 66 wherein each of said communication links comprises SCSI commands and protocol.

68.   A system as set forth in claim 62 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure, and said status of said subsystem pertains to said SAF-TE enclosure.

69.   A system as set forth in claim 62 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure; and further comprising third programming within said subsystem to respond to said periodic SAF-TE polls by promptly reporting status of said subsystem for each of said polls, whether or not said status has changed.

70.   A method for communicating to a host system a change in status of a subsystem coupled to said host system, said method comprising the steps of:

said subsystem receiving a request by said host system to monitor a status of said subsystem and report to said host system a change in said status when said change occurs or in absence of said change during a predetermined period following said request, report no change in said status, but not report lack of change of said status before said predetermined period lapses;

in response to the receiving step, said subsystem monitoring status of said subsystem, and

if a change occurs in said status before said predetermined period lapses, said subsystem reporting said change in status to said host system, and wherein before said change occurs, said subsystem not reporting said status of said subsystem to said host system; and

if a change does not occur in said status before said predetermined period lapses, said subsystem reporting no change in said status to said host system upon lapse of said predetermined period.

71.   A method as set forth in claim 70 wherein said status of said subsystem includes status of a component coupled to said subsystem.

72.   A method as set forth in claim 70 wherein said status of said subsystem comprises status of a device, component or board slot within said subsystem.

73.   A method as set forth in claim 70 further comprising the steps of:

before the receiving step, establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem;

after the receiving step but before the reporting step, terminating said communication link; and

after the terminating step but before said reporting step, establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem to report said status of said subsystem.

74.   A method as set forth in claim 73 wherein each of said communication links comprises SCSI commands and protocol.

75.   A method as set forth in claim 70 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure, and said status of said subsystem pertains to said SAF-TE enclosure.

76.   A method as set forth in claim 70 wherein said host system qualifies said request to report a change in status of said subsystem only when there is a minimum numerical amount of change of a status parameter, and said request specifies said status parameter and said minimum numerical amount of change.

77.   A method as set forth in claim 70 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure and programming to support periodic SAF-TE polls made by said host system for status of said subsystem, and further comprising the step of said subsystem receiving periodic SAF-TE polls made by said host system, and responding to said periodic SAF-TE polls by promptly reporting status of said subsystem for each of said polls, whether or not said status has changed.

78.   A method as set forth in claim 70 wherein said host computer specifies said predetermined period in said request.

79.   A computer system comprising a host system and a subsystem coupled to said host system, said computer system comprising:

first programming in said host system to generate and send a request to said subsystem to monitor a status of said subsystem and report to said host system a change in said status when said change occurs or in absence of said change during a predetermined period following said request, report no change in said status, but not report lack of change of said status before said predetermined period lapses;

second programming in said subsystem, responsive to said request, to monitor status of said subsystem, and

if a change subsequently occurs in said status before said predetermined period lapses, reporting said change in status to said host system, and wherein before said change occurs, said second programming does not report said status of said subsystem to said host system; and

if a change does not subsequently occur in said status before said predetermined period lapses, said second programming reporting said status to said host system upon lapse of said predetermined period.

80.   A system as set forth in claim 79 wherein said status of said subsystem includes status of a component coupled to said subsystem.

81.   A system as set forth in claim 79 wherein said status of said subsystem comprises status of a device, component or board slot within said subsystem.

82.   A system as set forth in claim 79 further comprising:

means for establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem before said first programming sends said request to said subsystem;

means for terminating said communication link after said third programming receives said request but before said second programming reports said status; and

means for establishing a communication link between said host system and said subsystem. after said communication link was terminated but before said second programming reports said status.

83.   A system as set forth in claim 82 wherein each of said communication links comprises SCSI commands and protocol.

84.   A system as set forth in claim 79 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure, and said status of said subsystem pertains to said SAF-TE enclosure.

85.   A system as set forth in claim 79 wherein said host system qualifies said request to report a change in status of said subsystem only when there is a minimum numerical amount of change of a status parameter, and said request specifies said status parameter and said minimum numerical amount of change.

86.   A system as set forth in claim 79 wherein said subsystem comprises a SAF-TE enclosure and programming to support said periodic SAF-TE polls made by said host system for status of said subsystem by promptly reporting status of said subsystem for each of said polls, whether or not said status has changed.

87.   A system as set forth in claim 79 wherein said host computer specifies said predetermined period in said request.